

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 423
By Fowlkes

A RESOLUTION to create a special joint committee to study all municipal courts.

WHEREAS, some municipal courts in this state have concurrent jurisdiction with general sessions courts and some municipal courts do not have such concurrent jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, municipal courts with concurrent jurisdiction require additional district attorney generals and public defenders; and

WHEREAS, appeals periods vary among the municipal courts throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, municipal courts differ on jurisdiction regarding traffic citations on interstate highways; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that there is hereby created a special joint committee to study the creation, jurisdiction, costs, fines, appeals periods and other aspects of municipal courts. The committee shall consider the recommendations of the Tennessee Judicial Council in regard to their study

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of municipal courts. The goal of such committee is to provide a more efficient judicial system and to ensure, to the extent possible, that the municipal courts, are created in a manner that is consistent and equitable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall be composed of eight (8) members as follows:

(1) Four (4) members of the House of Representatives to be appointed by the Speaker of the House; and

(2) Four (4) members of the Senate to be appointed by the Speaker of the Senate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That all legislative members of the special joint committee who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee shall be convened by the legislative member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly, and at its first meeting shall elect a Chair, Vice-Chair and such officers the committee deems necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That at the request of the committee, the various agencies and entities of state government shall assist the committee in the performance of its duties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the special joint committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation or interim reports, by January 13, 2004, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.